South Korea p_____s(調查) deadly crowd surge

F_____L(奪命的) HALLOWEEN: The police agency dismissed speculation that the local police station was understaffed because it had to provide extra security for the president

Police are investigating whether official **ineptitude**(無能) contributed to a crowd surge that killed people during Halloween festivities in the nation's deadliest civilian crowd crushes/disaster in years. The crowd surge was concentrated in a sloped, narrow alley with witnesses and survivors recalling a "hell-like" **c_____s(混亂)** of people falling on each other "like dominoes."

Police launched a 561-member **task force(專案小組)** to **delve(dig/explore)** into details of the crush. Officers are analyzing footage taken by security cameras in the area at the time of the crush and related video clips posted on social media, and interviewing witnesses. A team of police officers and government **forensic experts** were to conduct a **joint** full-scale investigation. Police said in a statement they **fielded(派任)** 137 officers to maintain order — much more than the 34 to 90 officers **m_____d(調集)** in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Citing the figures, police dismissed as "different from the truth" **i_____y(煽動的/縱火犯的)** allegation. The police statement said that police-provided security for a president has long been handled by two special police units and that the units have nothing to do with the Yongsan police station, whose **j_____n(管轄區域)** includes Itaewon.

In the wake of(隨後) the disaster, many hotels, department stores, amusement parks and other businesses in South Korea have canceled Halloween-themed events.

Seoul m_____ns(哀悼) 153 killed, the death t____l(死亡數), in crush

DAY OF SORROW: Taiwan sent its **c_____es(哀悼)** to South Korea after a **stampede(蜂擁/驚逃)** during a Halloween event left dozens of mostly young people dead

More than 150 people were killed in a stampede. The crowd surge and crush happened at about 10pm in the capital's popular district, where estimates suggest that as many as 100,000 people went there, **clog**ging(堵塞) the area's narrow alleyways and winding streets.

Eyewitnesses described being trapped in a narrow, sloping alleyway and **scrambling(攀爬/倉促)** to get out of the **s_____ting(窒息)** crowd as people piled on top of one another. Officials said they had no clear idea of what caused the crush, while eyewitnesses described scenes of **chaos** after a vast crowd panicked in a narrow alleyway.

Local shopkeepers said the number of people at the annual celebration was "**unp_____tedly**(前所未有地) large" this year — the first event to be held without restrictions since the COVID-19 **p_____ic (**流行病**)** began.

As questions began to **e_____e (浮出)** over the lack of security at the event, official told a news **b_____g (簡報)** that police had been occupied on the other side of town where a large crowd was expected for a protest.

Experts show crowd safety moves

An expert on disaster response demonstrated self-protection options **in the event of**(以防) a crowd crush, noting to protect one's head, neck **vertebrae(頸椎)** and **thoracic vertebrae(胸椎)**.

New Taipei City Fire Department senior executive officer Shang Shao-hua (尚少華) said that people should **curl(捲曲)** their bodies to protect their head and **rib cage(胸腔)** when **e_____ering (遭遇)** a stampede. If pushed to the ground, a person should protect their head with their elbows, while protecting their chest and **abdomen** by bending their knees. If able to stand, a person should **clench(緊握)** their left **fist** and hold it with their right hand over their heart to keep space for the lungs to breathe when being pushed. Broken ribs can easily **stab** the heart or lungs, possibly leading to death, which can be prevented when people **hook** their arms and stand in a circle. People should stay away from staircases in a stampede.

Emergency physicians at the scene of the Itaewon tragedy said that most of the victims died of suffocation that led to **cardiac a_____t(心跳停止)**.

Student found dead
Police said that a Malaysian student found dead in her apartment in Taipei that evening appeared to have been **s_____d**. The student, in her 20s, was found dead in her rented residence and had injuries <u>consistent with</u> strangulation, the Shilin Police **P_____t**(分局) said. The death was reported to Taipei authorities at about 6pm after a man, identified by his family name, Chen (陳), was rushed to a local hospital following an **o_____e (藥劑過量)** of **over-the-counter(不須處方)** drugs in what police believe was a suicide attempt. Chen was unconscious and in **intensive care**, police adding that it was he who informed police of the woman's death.

- Anyone who has suicidal thoughts can contact the 1925 or 1995 suicide prevention hotlines for counseling or assistance.